



**NEWS RELEASE
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***UAW President Ron Gettelfinger Named Recipient of
United Way’s Joseph A. Beirne Community Services Award***

Alexandria, VA (June 15, 2006) -- United Auto Workers (UAW) President Ron Gettelfinger has been named the recipient of this year’s Joseph A. Beirne Community Services Award presented annually by United Way of America.

Ron Gettelfinger was elected president of the UAW at the UAW’s 33rd Constitutional Convention in June 2002. Prior to that he served as a UAW vice president and directed the UAW Aerospace and National Ford departments where he led negotiations in 1999 that focused on “Bargaining for Families.” He also served for six years as UAW Region III Director serving the UAW membership in Indiana and Kentucky. Ron began his rise to the leadership of UAW as a member of UAW Local 862 at the Ford Assembly Plant in Louisville, Kentucky through a career as a chassis line repairman.

“Ron’s leadership skills and passion for humanity extend from the assembly line to the boardroom,” said Brian Gallagher, president of United Way of America. “He treats people with respect and often leads by example,” Gallagher continued. “Ron is a highly principled, dedicated champion for the rights of others and is driven by serving others and making an impact on people’s lives.”

Ron Gettelfinger’s United Way involvement is extensive, dating back more than 30 years. As a member of Detroit’s United Way Board of Directors, he chaired the 2004 annual fund-raising campaign, the Torch Drive, and became the highest-ranking labor leader to lead a United Way

campaign in the United States. Through his leadership and dedication, more than 350 volunteers held leadership positions within the Campaign Cabinet and successfully reached the goal of raising \$64.5 million in a community that has suffered economically.

In addition to his United Way involvement, Ron Gettelfinger was Michigan's first honorary chair for the March of Dimes WalkAmerica in 2004. Under his leadership, more than \$3 million was raised. Ron generously volunteered to chair this important fund-raising event again in 2005.

Established in 1974, United Way's Joseph A. Beirne Community Services Award honors the memory of Joseph A. Beirne, the first president of the Communications Workers of America and the first labor representative to serve as president of United Community Funds and Councils of America (now United Way of America). The award recognizes union members for outstanding volunteer service with United Way.

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About United Way of America

United Way of America is the national organization dedicated to leading the United Way movement in making a measurable impact in every community across America by focusing on the root causes of the most serious problems. The United Way movement includes more than 1,300 community-based United Way organizations. Each is independent, separately incorporated, and governed by local volunteers. For more information about United Way of America, please visit: www.unitedway.org.